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Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: supply reduction and related measures

World situation with regard to drug trafficking

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs worldwide. The statistics and analysis in the report are based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The report presents trends in drug seizures and statistics on the illicit cultivation of drug crops up to 2016 and, where available, 2017. This report also provides an overview of these trends over the extended period of 2007–2016.

Following on the increase in 2016, opium poppy cultivation reached record levels in Afghanistan in 2017. Global heroin seizures have increased slightly in recent years, after remaining relatively stable during the period 2008–2013. Coca bush cultivation and the quantity of cocaine seized globally increased sharply in 2015 and 2016, with record seizures reported in South America. Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants increased sharply in 2016, for the third consecutive year. Cannabis herb continues to be cultivated, and seized, in most countries worldwide and in all regions of the world, while the production of cannabis resin remains confined to a few countries in South-West Asia and North Africa. Worldwide, seizures are concentrated in those two regions and in the European consumer market.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of developments in the production of and trafficking in the main illicit drugs at the global and regional levels. The analysis includes information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) up to December 2017.

2. Section II of this report addresses the illicit cultivation of drug crops and the production of plant-based drugs for the years up to and including 2016 and, where available, 2017. Section III discusses drug trafficking and seizures, focusing on seizure statistics for 2016 and previous years and providing an update on trafficking trends for cannabis, opiates, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants. Section IV contains an analysis of the trends in illicit crop cultivation and drug trafficking over the period 2007–2016.

3. The principal sources of information on the illicit cultivation of drug crops and the production of plant-based drugs are the most recent UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys. In addition, replies by Governments to part IV of the annual report questionnaire for 2016 provide the primary source of information on drug trafficking patterns and seizures of illicit drugs.

4. As of December 2017, UNODC had received replies to part IV of the annual report questionnaire from 106 Member States and two territories. Supplementary sources of information include official published government reports and reports submitted to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The *World Drug Report 2017* also aided the analysis of the current situation with regard to drug trafficking. In total, seizure data for 2016 were available for 121 States and territories.

II. Global trends in illicit cultivation of drug crops and production of plant-based drugs

A. Cannabis herb cultivation and cannabis resin production

5. The cannabis plant lends itself to diverse cultivation methods and so grows in a variety of environments. This makes assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. Reports of cannabis cultivation and eradication show that a wide range of practices exist globally, from growing a small number of plants for personal consumption to large-scale commercial operations in indoor warehouses, on farmland and in forests.

6. Seizure data suggest that the cultivation of cannabis herb continues to occur in most countries worldwide and in all regions of the world. In contrast, the large-scale production of cannabis resin remains confined to a few countries in North Africa and South-West Asia, the most prominent of which are Afghanistan and Morocco.

7. Morocco reported eradicating 5,000 ha of cannabis in 2013 and estimated that, after eradication, 42,000 ha remained under cannabis cultivation. This represents a reduction of almost 70 per cent compared with the 2003 area of cultivation (134,000 ha).[1] Morocco reported that in 2016 the area under cultivation in the country had remained stable, at 46,600 ha, while annual production of cannabis resin stood at 713 tons.[2] Similarly, national authorities estimated cannabis herb production in Morocco to be 35,653 tons. This is considerably larger than other cannabis herb-producing countries such as Mexico, where national authorities estimated production to be 6,574 tons in 2016.[3]

8. Although Afghanistan had a significantly smaller estimated area under cannabis cultivation than had Morocco, at 10,000 ha in 2012, it had an estimated potential

[1] UNODC and Government of Morocco, "Maroc: enquête sur le cannabis 2003" (December 2003).
[2] UNODC, annual report questionnaire, replies submitted by Morocco for 2016.
[3] UNODC, annual report questionnaire, replies submitted by Mexico for 2016.

cannabis resin production of 1,400 tons, almost double the estimated production for Morocco. In 2015, cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan remained linked to opium poppy cultivation, as both opium poppy and cannabis cultivation in 2015 were concentrated in the southern part of the country, where 73 per cent of villages were involved in cannabis cultivation.[4]

B. Opium poppy cultivation

9. While Afghanistan and Myanmar continue to account for over 80 per cent of global opium poppy cultivation, the trends observed in those two countries have differed in recent years. As of the time of writing, 4 January 2018, information on opium poppy cultivation in 2016 in those two Member States (and cultivation at the global level) was available, but estimates for 2017 were available only for Afghanistan.

10. After increasing every year between 2009 and 2014, global opium poppy cultivation decreased in 2015, mainly due to a decline in Afghanistan. In 2016, cultivation in that country increased once again, and, hence, global opium poppy cultivation increased by 8 per cent from 2015 to 2016, reaching 304,800 ha (see figure I). Preliminary data indicate that record levels for the area under opium poppy cultivation were reached in 2017, both for Afghanistan and total world cultivation.

11. Between 2010 and 2014, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased by about 80 per cent, from 124,700 to 224,000 ha. After decreasing in 2015 (falling to 183,000 ha), the area under opium poppy cultivation in the country increased once again in 2016,[5] albeit to levels lower than those observed in 2014 (201,000 ha). According to the *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2017*, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan reached record levels in 2017, reaching an estimated 328,000 ha, which represents a 63 per cent increase from 2016. In 2017, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan not only intensified significantly in regions where it already existed but also expanded into new areas of the country, with the result that only 10 of the country's 34 provinces were opium poppy-free that year, compared with 13 opium poppy-free provinces in 2015 (and 15 provinces in 2014).

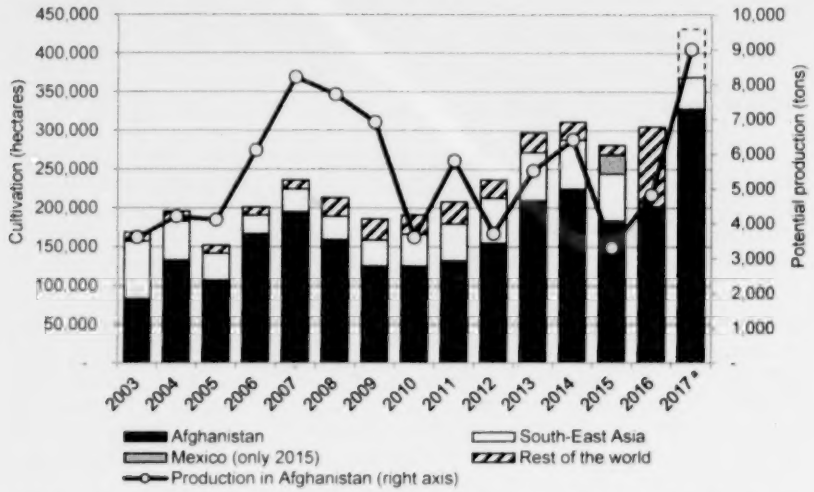
12. While the southern region of Afghanistan continues to account for the largest share of opium poppy cultivation in the country (60 per cent), the northern region has seen a rapid expansion of cultivation over the past few years, from 574 ha in 2014 to 43,000 ha in 2017. The area under opium poppy cultivation in the southern region has also seen a large increase of 67 per cent from 2016 to 2017.

[4] UNODC and Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015: Socio-economic Analysis* (Vienna, March 2016).

[5] UNODC and Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, "Afghanistan opium survey 2016: cultivation and production—executive summary" (Vienna, October 2016).

Figure I

Opium poppy cultivation by region, and potential opium production in Afghanistan and South-East Asia (2003–2017)



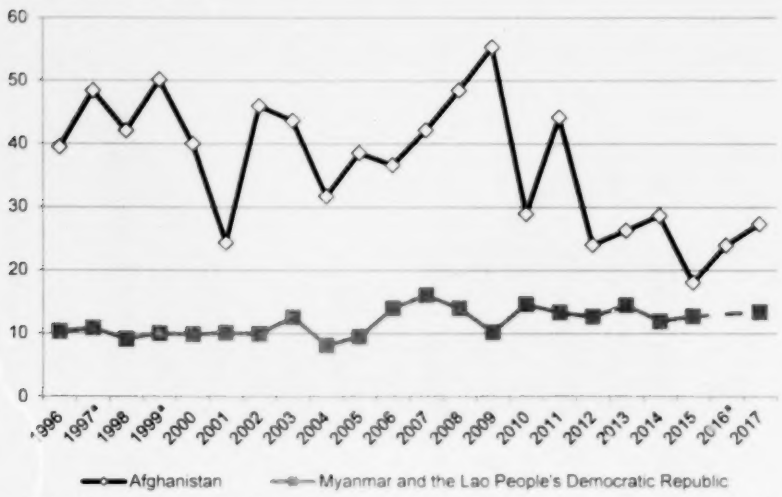
[a] Only information on opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and the Shan and Kachin States of Myanmar was available at the time of writing for 2017. No information is available for South-East Asia in 2016.

13. In 2017, potential opium production in Afghanistan reached 9,000 tons, an 87 per cent increase with respect to 2016 (4,800 tons). This increase was a consequence of not only the notably larger area under cultivation in 2017 but also the higher average yield, which increased from 23.8 kilograms (kg)/ha in 2016 to 27.3 kg/ha in 2017. Despite this being the second consecutive increase in yearly average yield, the level observed in 2017 is still significantly lower than the levels reached in the years prior to 2012, as seen in figure II.

14. The *South-East Asia Opium Survey 2015* estimated that illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region covered 61,200 ha. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, cultivation steadily increased from 1,500 ha in 2007 to 6,800 ha in 2012. In 2015, estimated cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic reached 5,700 ha. After steadily increasing from 21,600 ha in 2006 to 57,800 ha in 2013, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased slightly, reaching 55,500 ha in 2015. While no information is available on the extent of opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia in 2016, partial estimates available for 2017 suggest that opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased over the last two years. The *Myanmar Opium Survey 2017* estimated that 41,000 ha were under opium poppy cultivation in the Shan and Kachin States of Myanmar in 2017, which represents a 25 per cent decrease with respect to 2015. These two regions typically account for over 98 per cent of all cultivation in the country.

15. Because of the geographical and soil conditions where opium poppy is cultivated in South-East Asia, on hillsides, with poor soil and no irrigation, the yield in that region has traditionally been significantly lower than in Afghanistan, as seen in figure II. In 2017, the yield in Myanmar was estimated at 13.4 kg/ha, a 15 per cent increase compared with the estimated yield of 11.7 kg/ha in 2015.

Figure II
Yield of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and South-East Asia (1996–2017)
(Kilograms per hectare)



[a] The yield amounts shown for Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the years 1997, 1999 and 2016 consist of the yield in Myanmar alone

16. While typically between 85 and 95 per cent of global opium poppy cultivation takes place in Afghanistan and South-East Asia, cultivation also takes place in other parts of the world. According to the first Mexico opium survey, carried out for the period 2014–2015 by UNODC and the Government of Mexico, the area under opium poppy cultivation in the country between July 2014 and June 2015 was estimated at 24,800 ha, which represented about 9 per cent of global cultivation in 2015. An estimated 462 ha were under opium poppy cultivation in Colombia in 2016, a decrease from the estimated 595 ha of cultivation in 2015.[6] Other countries in Latin America, such as Ecuador and Guatemala, have also reported the eradication of opium poppy cultivation sites in 2016.

C. Coca cultivation

17. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide. The total area under cultivation in the three countries increased by 36 per cent from 156,500 ha in 2015 to 213,000 ha in 2016, the highest amount recorded since 2000. This was due mainly to a sharp increase of almost 52 per cent in Colombia, as well as to increments in both Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru.

18. After coca bush cultivation in Colombia fell to the historically low level of 48,000 ha in 2013, the Colombia coca cultivation survey for 2016, conducted jointly by the Government of Colombia and UNODC, showed that coca bush cultivation in Colombia more than tripled in three years, reaching 146,000 ha in 2016. Despite that sharp increase, the area of coca bush cultivation in 2016 was among the lowest amounts on record, continuing the trend observed in recent years of a greater coca yield but in a smaller area.

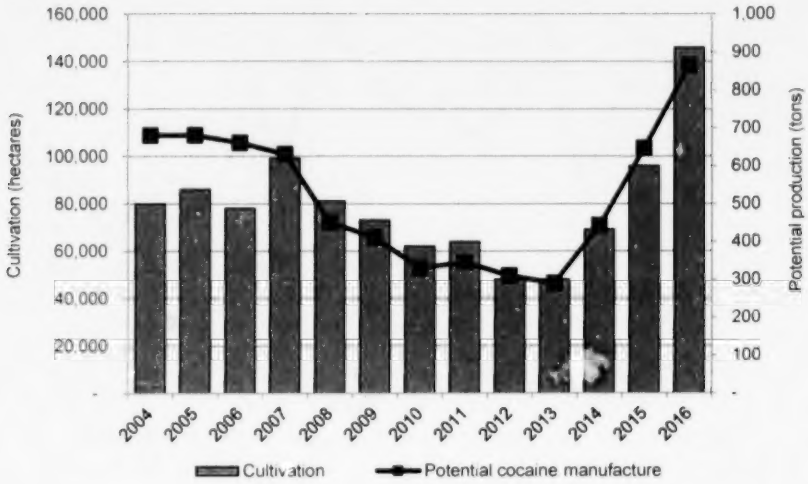
19. After reaching 290 tons in 2013, the lowest value since the mid-1990s, potential cocaine manufacture in Colombia increased sharply to 866 tons in 2016 (see figure III). The increase in production has been accompanied by an increment in the

[6] UNODC and Government of Colombia, *Colombia: Survey of Territories Affected by Illicit Crops 2016* (August 2017)

number of dismantled laboratories for the extraction of cocaine paste and base, from 2,172 such dismantlements in 2014 to 4,613 in 2016.

Figure III

Coca bush cultivation and potential cocaine manufacture in Colombia (2004–2016)

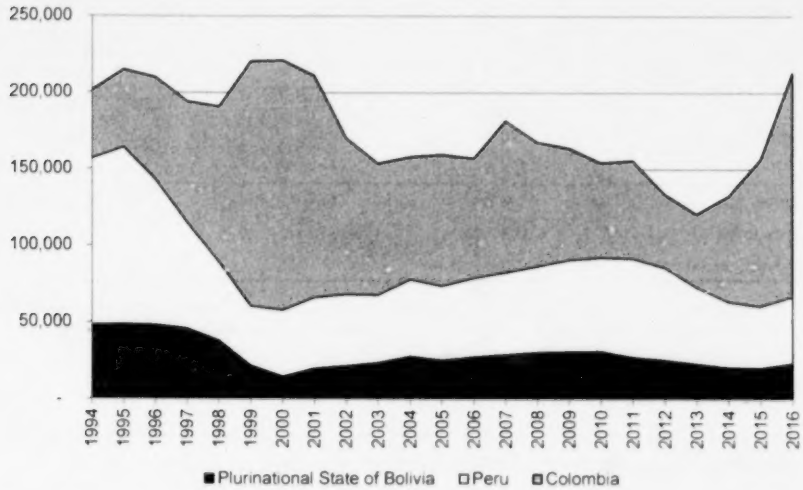


20. According to the 2016 national coca monitoring survey for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the area under coca bush cultivation increased for the first time since 2010, from 20,200 ha in 2015 to 23,100 ha in 2016. After decreasing in 2015 to the lowest amount since 2005, potential coca leaf production in the country increased by 17 per cent, reaching 38,000 tons in 2016. Coca bush eradication efforts led to 6,577 ha of eradication in 2016, a 40 per cent decrease from the 11,020 ha eradicated in 2015.

21. The area under coca bush cultivation in Peru, after having reached in 2015 the lowest amount recorded since 1999, increased by 9 per cent in 2016 to reach 43,900 ha, according to the 2016 national coca monitoring survey conducted by UNODC and the Government of Peru. The production of dried coca leaf in Peru was estimated at 106,000 tons in 2016, a 10 per cent increase from 2015.

22. Peruvian authorities reported the eradication of 30,151 ha of coca bush cultivation in 2016, a 16 per cent decrease from the historical record of 35,900 ha of eradication reported in 2015. The amount of coca bush eradication in Peru in 2016 was significantly greater than the amounts reported for years prior to 2014.

Figure IV
Coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru (1994–2016)
(Hectares)



23. Although the manufacture of cocaine occurs mainly in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf derivatives also exist outside those countries. Colombian authorities have identified a trend in which coca base is increasingly being trafficked and converted to cocaine hydrochloride outside the country.[7] According to data from responses to the annual report questionnaire for 2016, several countries in South America, including Argentina, Honduras, Paraguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), reported the detection of clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf derivatives. In 2016, Canada, Greece, Spain and Hong Kong, China, also reported the detection of such laboratories.

III. Global trends in illicit drug trafficking and seizures

24. The table below shows the quantities of the major drug types seized globally and reported to UNODC in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and the estimated trend in 2016.

[7] UNODC, annual report questionnaire, replies submitted by Colombia for 2016.

Table
Global drug seizures and trends, 2014, 2015 and 2016

Drug type	*2014 seizures (tons)*	*2015 seizures (tons)*	*2016 seizures (tons)*	*2016 trend*[a,b]
Cannabis herb	5 874.5	5 781.4	4 605.4	Decrease (-19%)
Cannabis resin	1 443.9	1 536.0	1 651.6	Stable (+7%)
Cocaine[c]	660.5	863.8	1 013.1	Increase (+20%)
Heroin	83.7	79.9	83.7	Stable (+5%)
Illicit morphine	20.9	9.6	18.2	Increase (+90%)
Opium	526.5	586.8	652.5	Increase (+12%)
Amphetamine	48.0	51.6	57.6	Stable (+10%)
Methamphetamine	108.7	131.8	157.2	Increase (+23%)
"Ecstasy"-type substances	9.4	6.0	11.0	Increase (+84%)

[a] Since data for 2016 were incomplete at the time of preparation of the present report, the trend was estimated by comparing total seized quantities for countries and territories for which data were available for both 2015 and 2016. Totals for 2016 are preliminary.

[b] The term "stable" is used to indicate an annual variation of less than 10 per cent.

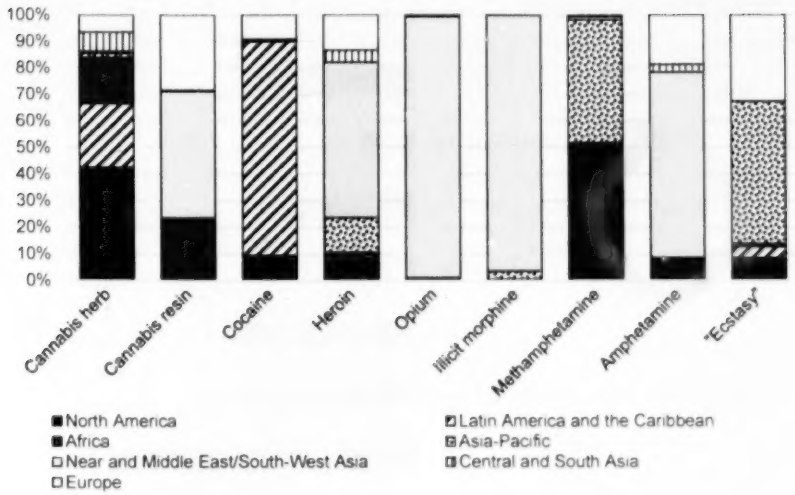
[c] Includes base, pastes, salts and "crack" cocaine.

25. The estimated annual trend in global drug seizures for 2016 is based on the quantities of narcotic drugs seized by Member States and reported to UNODC.

26. At the global level, while cannabis herb seizures decreased in 2016 compared with the previous year, there were increases in seizures of opiates and amphetamine-type stimulants. While Africa accounted for between 20 and 25 per cent of cannabis herb and resin global seizures (see figure V), the Americas accounted for significant proportions of global seizures of cannabis herb, cocaine and methamphetamine in 2016. While between 10 and 30 per cent of global seizures of cannabis resin, heroin, amphetamine and "ecstasy"-type substances occurred in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region[8] accounted for about half of global seizures of methamphetamine and "ecstasy"-type substances, and over 10 per cent of heroin seizures. South-West Asia and the Near and Middle East continues to account for most opiates and amphetamine global seizures.

[8] "Asia-Pacific" refers to the regions of East and South-East Asia and Oceania collectively.

Figure V
Geographical distribution of seizures by drug type (2016)
(Percentage)

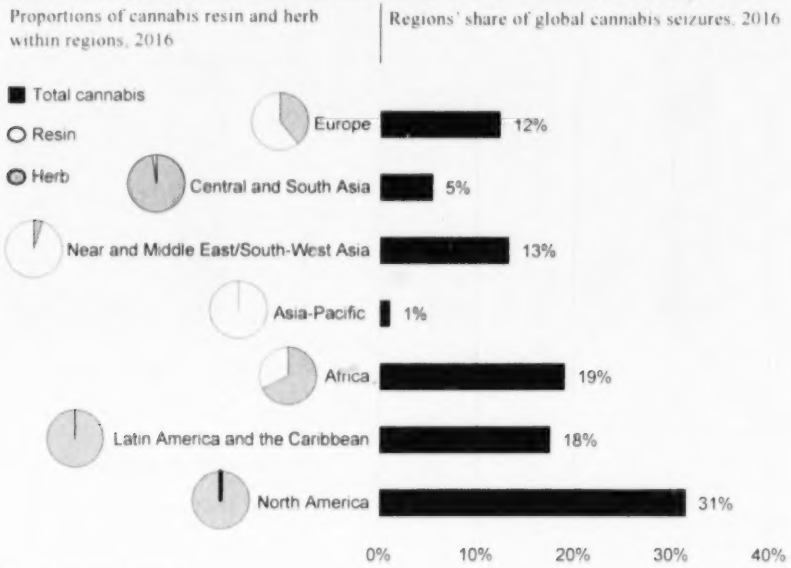


A. Cannabis

27. About half of global cannabis seizures in 2016 occurred in the Americas, where it is almost exclusively trafficked in herbal form. Regions such as Europe and Africa account for significant amounts of both cannabis herb and resin seized. In Africa, most of the cannabis resin is cultivated, and trafficked, in North Africa, while in sub-Saharan Africa, cannabis is trafficked almost exclusively in its herbal form. Despite an increase in herbal cannabis trafficking in recent years, cannabis resin continues to account for most cannabis seizures in Europe. Large amounts of cannabis are trafficked in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, almost exclusively in its resin form (see figure VI).

Figure VI

Proportion of global cannabis seizures by region and distribution by type (2016)[a]



[a] Data are preliminary.

Cannabis herb

28. The Americas have accounted for more than 60 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures every year since the early 1990s. Between 2010 and 2012, a decline in seizures in North America resulted in a decrease at the global level. Between 2013 and 2015, this decline in North America slowed down and was offset by increases in Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, with global cannabis herb seizures remaining stable (see figure VII). In 2016, preliminary data indicate that cannabis herb seizures worldwide decreased sharply by 19 per cent with respect to 2015, mostly due to declines in the regions of greatest seizure amounts: the Americas and Africa.

29. Cannabis herb seizures in North America decreased sharply from almost 5,000 tons in 2010 to just over 2,100 tons in 2014, and have remained relatively stable since then. In 2016, cannabis herb seizures in the subregion decreased by 12 per cent, mainly due to a sharp decrease in Mexico. While seizures in the United States of America increased by 14 per cent, Mexican authorities reported the lowest cannabis herb seizures since 1995, at 841 tons, a 32 per cent decrease from 2015. United States authorities reported that the continued decreasing trend in cannabis herb trafficking observed since 2010 may also be related to the legalization of recreational use in some states and the corresponding increase in domestic production.[9]

30. Unlike North America, cannabis herb seizures in Latin America and the Caribbean increased sharply between 2009 and 2014, from 650 tons to over 2,000 tons. In 2015, seizures in the subregion decreased to under 1,500 tons, and preliminary data for 2016 indicate a further decrease, to about 1,100 tons of seizures in that year. Cannabis herb seizures in the countries of greatest seizure amounts in the subregion, Colombia and Paraguay, have decreased in recent years. While Colombian authorities reported a decrease from the more than 400 tons of cannabis herb seized in the country in 2013 to less than 200 tons in 2016, seizures in Paraguay declined from a historical high of 712 tons in 2014 to 414 tons in 2016.

31. Between 2009 and 2014, cannabis herb seizures in Western and Central Europe have nearly doubled, from 65 tons to 125 tons, partly due to the fact that in recent

[9] UNODC annual report questionnaire, replies submitted by the United States for 2016.

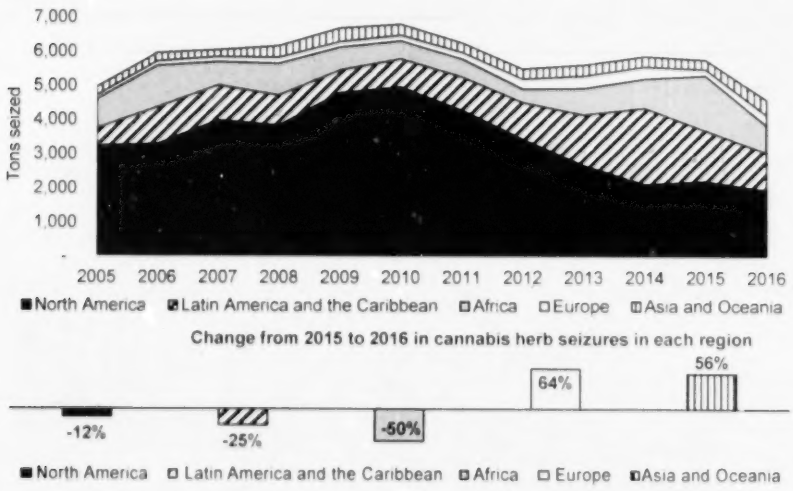
years domestically produced herbal products have become more prevalent, displacing imported resin in many countries.[10] An increase in seizures of cannabis plants in Europe reflects both the increase in cultivation and a change in the priorities set by law enforcement authorities, as they target cultivation more intensively.[11] While in 2015, reported cannabis herb seizures in Western and Central Europe decreased sharply to 101 tons, data for 2016 suggest that cannabis herb seizures in that subregion have increased sharply once again, reaching the highest level since 2002. After decreasing notably in 2015, seizures in Greece and Italy increased again, from 2.5 tons and 9.3 tons in 2015 to 12.8 tons and 41 tons respectively in 2016. Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have reported sharp increases in recent years, reaching over 30 tons and 21 tons, respectively, of cannabis herb seized in 2016. In South-Eastern Europe, Turkey and Albania reported sharp increases in cannabis herb seizures, reaching 110 tons and 30 tons respectively in 2016.

32. In 2015, cannabis herb seizures in Africa reached their highest level since 2004, mainly due to record amounts reported by Nigeria. Preliminary data suggest that the levels of cannabis herb seizures reported in Africa in 2016 are comparable to those observed in 2013 and 2014. While information on cannabis herb seizures in the region is limited,[12] certain countries with high levels of reported seizures have consistently responded to part IV of the annual report questionnaires. Egyptian authorities have reported the seizure of more than 200 tons of cannabis herb every year since 2013, and seizures in Morocco reached 313 tons in 2015 and 296 tons in 2016, the highest levels in that country since 2004. With the exception of the 871 tons reported in 2015, cannabis herb seizures in Nigeria have fluctuated between 100 tons and 350 tons annually in the period 2005–2016.

Figure VII

Cannabis herb seizures by region (2005–2016), and the change in regional seizures from 2015 to 2016[a]

(Tons)



[a] Data for 2016 are preliminary.

[10] European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and European Police Office, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview* (Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2016).

[11] European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *European Drug report 2017: Trends and Developments* (Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2017).

[12] At the time of writing, 13 African countries had reported cannabis herb seizures in their annual report questionnaires for 2016.

33. Within Asia, cannabis herb trafficking has traditionally been most prominent in South Asia, with India and Bangladesh accounting for about half of total seizures in the region. In Central Asia, seizures are concentrated mostly in Kazakhstan, where record cannabis herb seizures have been reported in recent years: 34 tons in 2015 and 29 tons in 2016.

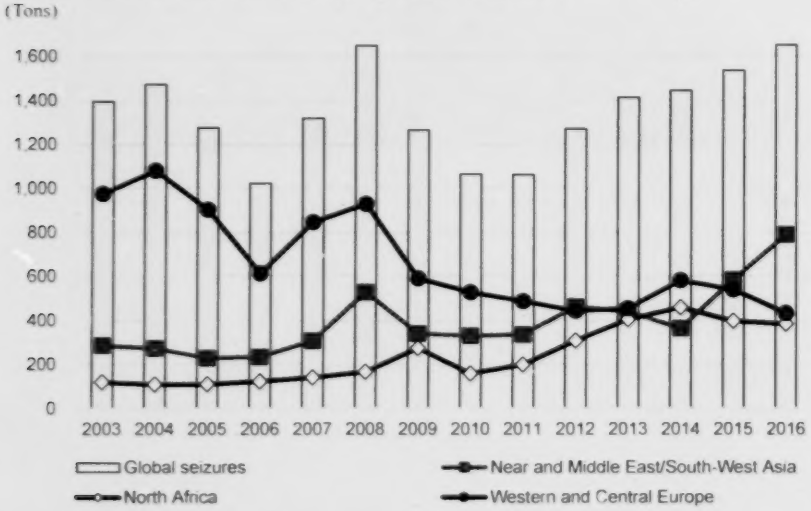
Cannabis resin

34. Unlike cultivation of cannabis herb, the production of cannabis resin is concentrated in a smaller number of countries, the most important of which are Afghanistan and Morocco. Consequently, seizure statistics for cannabis resin are also concentrated in North Africa, South-West Asia and Western and Central Europe, which is the main consumer market.

35. As the main entry point for cannabis resin trafficked from Morocco into Western Europe, Spain has traditionally been the country with the largest amount of cannabis resin seizures in the world. In 2016, Spain reported a total of 324 tons of cannabis resin seizures, a 15 per cent decrease with respect to 2015. Total cannabis resin seizures in Western and Central Europe decreased from 548 tons in 2015 to 469 tons in 2016, due to the decline in Spain as well as in other countries. While Italy reported a decline in seizures, with 24 tons of seizures in 2016 (down from 68 tons in 2015), Belgian authorities seized the lowest amounts of cannabis resin on record, with 24 kg in 2016, a sharp decrease from the 7 tons reported in 2015. In Turkey, cannabis resin seizures increased notably, from 7.8 tons in 2015 to over 36 tons in 2016, the second highest level on record for that country.

36. After decreasing in 2015, for the first time since 2009, cannabis resin seizures in North Africa declined slightly in 2016. Algeria and Egypt reported decreases of about 14 per cent with respect to 2015, while cannabis resin seizures remained stable at record levels in Morocco at almost 237 tons. Despite the sharp decreases in Algeria and Egypt in recent years, a notable trend of increasing cannabis resin seizures in both countries can be observed over the last 10 years, with seizures increasing from less than 2 tons in 2005 to over 109 tons in Algeria and reaching 29 tons in Egypt in 2016.

Figure VIII
Global cannabis resin seizures, by region (2003–2016)[a]



[a] Data for 2016 are preliminary.

37. Cannabis resin seizures in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia are concentrated in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. Seizures in all three countries have more than doubled between 2014

and 2016, and record levels were reached in the region in 2016, with over 787 tons of seizures. Cannabis resin seizures in Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) reached historical highs in 2016, with 352 tons and 115 tons respectively. In 2016, Afghanistan was the country with the largest amount of cannabis resin seizures in the world for the first time on record, a position previously held by Spain every year since 1996. According to Iranian authorities, 20 per cent of the cannabis resin seized in the country in 2016 was destined for the Islamic Republic of Iran, 55 per cent was being trafficked into the other Persian Gulf and littoral States, and the remaining 25 per cent of seizures was en route to Turkey and the Caucasus.[13] In 2016, cannabis resin seizures in Pakistan remained stable at 270 tons.

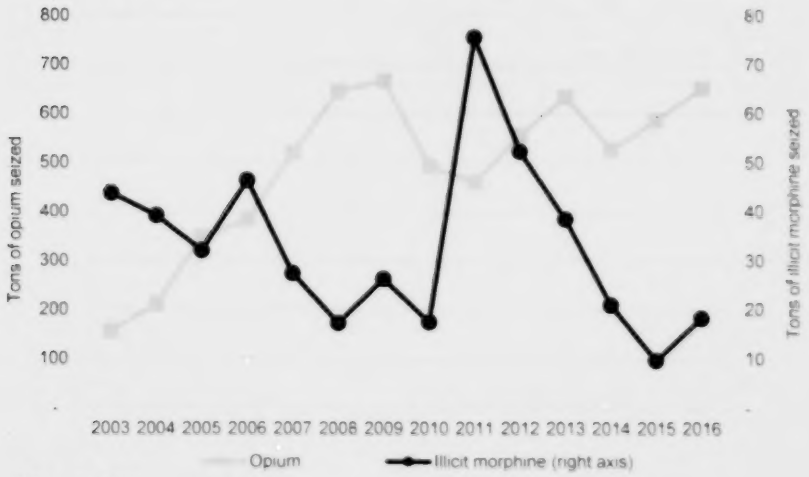
B. Opiates

Opium and illicit morphine

38. The Near and Middle East and South-West Asia account for between 95 and 100 per cent of global seizures of opium and illicit morphine. In particular, significant seizures in the region occur almost exclusively in Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

39. After decreasing in 2010 and 2011, opium seizures since then have followed an increasing trend, reaching over 650 tons in 2016, the highest level since 2009. About 70 to 85 per cent of global seizures occur in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and global trends are heavily influenced by what happens in this country. Opium seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran increased from 479 tons in 2015 to 529 tons in 2016. Seizures in Afghanistan and Pakistan also increased significantly in 2016, reaching 47 tons and 65 tons respectively.

Figure IX
Global opium and illicit morphine seizures (2003–2016)[a]



[a] Data for 2016 are preliminary.

40. Global illicit morphine seizures have been decreasing sharply since reaching a record 75 tons in 2011 (see figure IX). In 2015, global illicit morphine seizures amounted to just over 9 tons, a 56 per cent decrease with respect to 2014 and the lowest level on record since the early 1990s. In 2016, global illicit morphine seizures almost doubled with respect to 2015, mainly due to increases in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

[13] UNODC, annual report questionnaire, replies submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2016.

41. Illicit morphine seizures in Afghanistan have decreased notably since peaking at 64,028 kg in 2011, falling to just 18 kg in 2015. After reaching their lowest level in the last 15 years in 2015, at 762 kg, illicit morphine seizures in Pakistan increased sharply to 6.6 tons in 2016. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, illicit morphine seizures reached 10.9 tons in 2016, a 32 per cent increase with respect to 2015.

Heroin

42. Compared with seizures of opium and illicit morphine, heroin seizures occur in a much greater range of countries (see figure V), in particular around the larger markets in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Each of those three markets is mostly supplied by a different producing region. While East and South-East Asia are supplied mainly by production in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, most of Europe is supplied by Afghan heroin through the Balkan route and the southern route through Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and, increasingly, countries in Africa.[14] The northern route continues to take heroin from Afghanistan to markets in the Russian Federation.[15] In North America, the United States is mostly supplied by heroin produced in Latin America.

43. At the global level, heroin seizures remained relatively stable, between 72 tons and 78 tons, in the period 2008–2013, but have increased slightly since then, reaching over 83 tons in 2016. According to preliminary data, Afghan heroin seizures increased in 2016, while South American and South-East Asian heroin seizures decreased (see figure X).

44. In the Asia-Pacific region, the majority of heroin seizures are concentrated in China, where the amount of heroin seized increased from 4.6 tons in 2007 to over 9.4 tons in 2014. In 2015 and 2016, seizures in China remained around 8.8 tons. About 75 per cent of all heroin seizures in the country were in the Provinces of Yunnan and Guangxi, which share borders with Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam,[16] and over 90 per cent of all seized heroin in China entered the country from Myanmar in 2016.[17] Heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific region have followed an increasing trend in the period 2008–2015, with countries like Australia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand reporting sharp increases in the amounts seized over that period. However, seizures in the region decreased in 2016, mainly due to declines in Australia (263 kg, down from 863 in 2015), Malaysia (440 kg, down from 743 kg) and Viet Nam (100 kg, down from 1.5 tons).

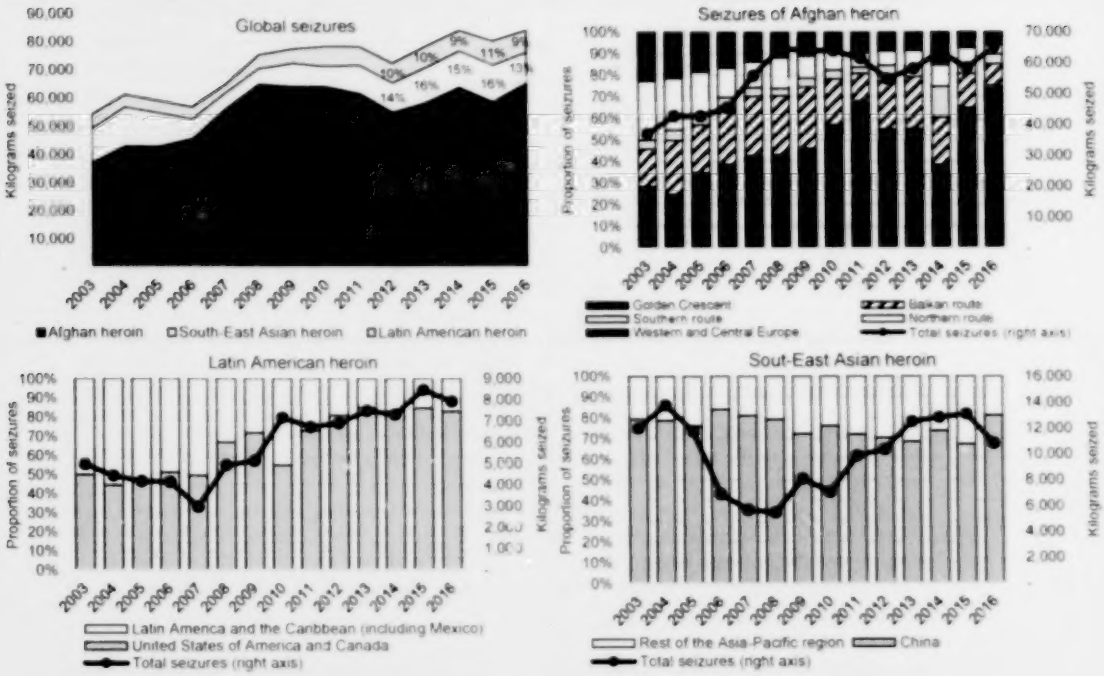
[14] UNODC, *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route* (Vienna, June 2015).

[15] UNODC, *The Illicit Drug Trade through South-Eastern Europe* (Vienna, March 2014).

[16] Country report submitted by China to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

[17] UNODC, annual report questionnaire submitted by China for 2016.

Figure X
Heroin seizures worldwide and by origin (2003–2016)[a]
(Kilograms)



[a] Data for 2016 are preliminary.

45. Total seizures of heroin originating in Afghanistan have remained relatively stable since 2008, and are increasingly concentrated in the Golden Crescent.[18] While seizures in Western and Central Europe and along the northern route accounted for over 50 per cent of total seizures of Afghan heroin during 2004 and previous years, this proportion has decreased gradually to 10 per cent in 2016. Seizures in the Golden Crescent have followed an increasing trend since 2005, and in 2016 accounted for over 70 per cent of all Afghan heroin seizures. Heroin seizures in this subregion reached 48 tons in 2016, the highest level on record, with 21 tons and 23 tons being seized by Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan respectively.

46. The most used route for transporting Afghan heroin into the European market continues to be the Balkan route, with large amounts of heroin seized in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey. Iranian authorities reported that 85 per cent of the heroin seized in 2016 entered the country through Pakistan, while 70 per cent was being trafficked onwards to Turkey and the Caucasus.[19] While heroin seizures in South-Eastern Europe have decreased in recent years, from about 14 tons a year in the period 2012–2014 to 6.4 tons in 2016, an alternative branch of the Balkan route through the Caucasus[20] seems to have gained importance in recent years.[21] Unprecedented amounts of heroin have been seized in recent years in Armenia (850 kg in 2014), Azerbaijan (1.2 tons in 2016), Georgia (591 kg in 2014) and Ukraine (805 kg in 2015).

[18] The Golden Crescent region encompasses Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.
[19] UNODC, annual report questionnaire submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2016.
[20] Heroin is trafficked via the Islamic Republic of Iran through Armenia or Azerbaijan to Georgia and then rejoins the traditional Balkan route crossing over the Black Sea into South-Eastern Europe (sometimes through Ukraine).

47. Heroin seizures in Western and Central Europe have been following a decreasing trend, falling from 11.6 tons in 2000 to 3.8 tons in 2016, the lowest level on record since the late 1980s. Some countries, such as Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom have shown marked decreasing trends in heroin seizures since 2000. Networks operating between Pakistan and Europe have become dominant in recent years and are targeting Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for trafficking via the southern route.[22]

48. Significant trafficking routes are developing in various regions in Africa.[23] In Egypt, record heroin seizures have been reported in recent years, with 613 kg, 516 kg and 816 kg of seizures in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. Nigerian authorities reported that most heroin trafficked in the country had arrived from Pakistan via the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya.[24]

49. While heroin continues to be transported to Central Asia and the Russian Federation via the northern route, the decreasing amounts seized suggest that trafficking may have declined since the turn of the century. In 2016, heroin seizures in Kazakhstan (197 kg), the Russian Federation (966 kg) and Tajikistan (89 kg) reached their lowest levels since 2002, while Kyrgyzstan reported a 52 per cent decrease with respect to 2015 (167 kg, down from 344 kg).

50. In the Americas, heroin seizures more than doubled between 2007 and 2010, then remained stable until 2014 and have increased slightly in recent years. In 2015 and 2016, heroin seizures in the region reached the highest levels on record, with 8.5 and 7.9 tons respectively, owing mostly to significant amounts seized by the United States. Mexico is the main source, and Colombia the secondary source, of heroin trafficked in the United States.[25] Heroin seizures in Colombia increased by 32 per cent in 2016 with respect to the previous year, reaching 520 kg, while seizures in Mexico remained high at 452 kg.

C. Cocaine

51. The main consumer markets for cocaine, North America and Western and Central Europe, continue to be supplied by cocaine originating in South America. Therefore, global cocaine seizures are concentrated in these regions, as well as in transit regions such as Central America and the Caribbean (see figure V). In line with the sharp increase in coca bush cultivation and potential cocaine manufacture in the Andean region, global seizures have increased sharply in recent years, from about 660 tons in 2014 to over 1,000 tons in 2016, according to preliminary data (see figure XI).

52. Global cocaine seizures have been shifting geographically from the main markets to the origin and transit regions. In 2016, origin and transit regions accounted for over 80 per cent of global seizures. After remaining relatively stable between 2008 and 2014 at around 400 tons, cocaine seizures in South America increased sharply both in 2015 and 2016, reaching 526 tons and 684 tons respectively. Seizures in Colombia more than doubled between 2014 and 2016, from 191 tons to an unprecedented 423 tons. Cocaine seizures in Ecuador have increased every year since 2010, from 15 tons to 98 tons in 2016, the largest amount on record for that country.

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[21] Europol, *SOCTA 2017: European Union Serious Organized Crime Threat Assessment—Crime in the Age of Technology* (The Hague, 2017).

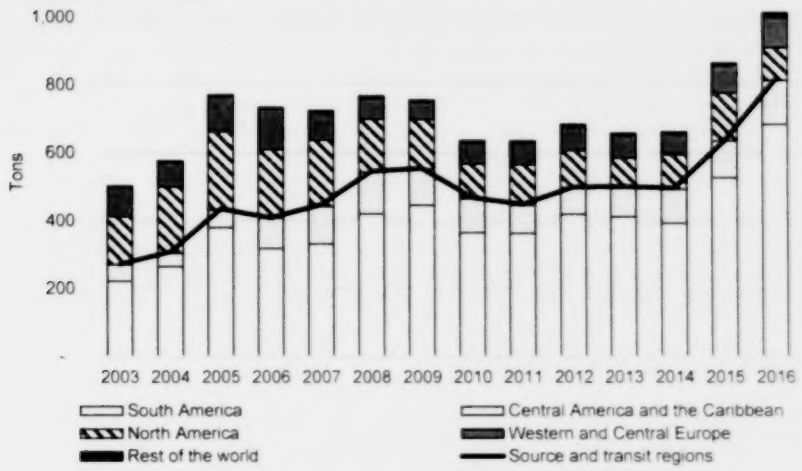
[22] UNODC, *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route*.

[23] Ibid.

[24] Country report submitted by Nigeria to the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

[25] United States, Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, *2017 National Drug Threat Assessment* (October 2017).

Figure XI
Global seizures of cocaine (base, paste and salts) by region (2003–2016)[a]
(Kilograms)



[a] Data for 2016 are preliminary

53. In 2016, five European countries[26] listed Central America and the Caribbean, in particular Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama, as transit and departure points for cocaine. Those three countries have recorded the largest amounts of cocaine seizures in the region in recent years. Cocaine seizures in Panama reached a record level in 2016, at 66 tons, and Costa Rica recorded a 37 per cent increase with respect to 2015, with 23 tons seized in 2016. Unprecedented cocaine seizures were also recorded in El Salvador in 2016, at 9.7 tons. As a result, cocaine seizures in Central America and the Caribbean amounted to 130 tons in 2016, a 19 per cent increase with respect to 2015.

54. After increasing sharply in 2015, cocaine seizures in North America decreased by 32 per cent in 2016, reaching 96 tons. Reported cocaine seizures in the United States decreased sharply from 132 tons in 2015 to 81 tons in 2016, according to preliminary data. Despite this decrease in seizures, cocaine availability in the United States seems to have increased in 2016.[27] National authorities estimate that 92 per cent of cocaine trafficked in the United States is of Colombian origin, while 6 per cent originates in Peru.[28] In Mexico, cocaine seizures reached the highest level since 2009, with almost 13 tons in 2016, two thirds of which were being transported by sea.[29]

55. Cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe peaked at 121 tons in 2006, then declined to an average of 62 tons between 2008 and 2014. In line with cocaine manufacture in the Andean region, cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe increased from 62 tons in 2014 to 82 tons in 2015 and 89 tons in 2016. In recent years, the increasing use of maritime containers to smuggle cocaine appears to have become a major threat. As a result, cocaine seizures in the region have shown a geographical shift from the Iberian peninsula towards Belgium and the Netherlands. For the first time on record, in 2016 Belgium was the country with the largest amount of seizures in Europe, with almost 39 tons, more than double the amount reported in 2015. While Spain was the European country with the largest amounts of cocaine seized every year

[26] Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
[27] United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, *2017 National Drug Threat Assessment*.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Country report submitted by Mexico to the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

between 2001 and 2015, seizures in that country have decreased in recent years, falling in 2016 to the lowest level since 2000, at 16 tons.

56. A secondary route for cocaine trafficked across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe involved the use of countries in West Africa as transit points. Countries in West Africa have reported large seizures in recent years, with Nigeria recording over 100 kg every year since 2003, and Ghana seizing a total 1.3 tons during the period 2013–2014. Of concern is the use of cannabis routes in North Africa or heroin routes in East Africa [10] to traffic cocaine. Egypt reported a record 532 kg of cocaine seized in 2014, and Morocco reported record seizures, of 632 kg in 2014 and 1,621 kg in 2016, while the United Republic of Tanzania seized an average of 85 kg of cocaine annually between 2010 and 2015, up from the average of 3.7 kg per year in the previous 10 years.

57. In most parts of Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, Asia and Oceania the availability of cocaine remains limited compared with other types of illicit drugs. Significant annual totals of cocaine seizures in 2016 were reported by Australia (2,160 kg), Philippines (1,930 kg), Sri Lanka (1,570 kg) and Saudi Arabia (840 kg).

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

58. Unlike the collection of seizure data for plant-based drugs, the collection of high-quality seizure data relating to amphetamine-type stimulants greatly depends on the proper identification and classification of seized controlled substances.

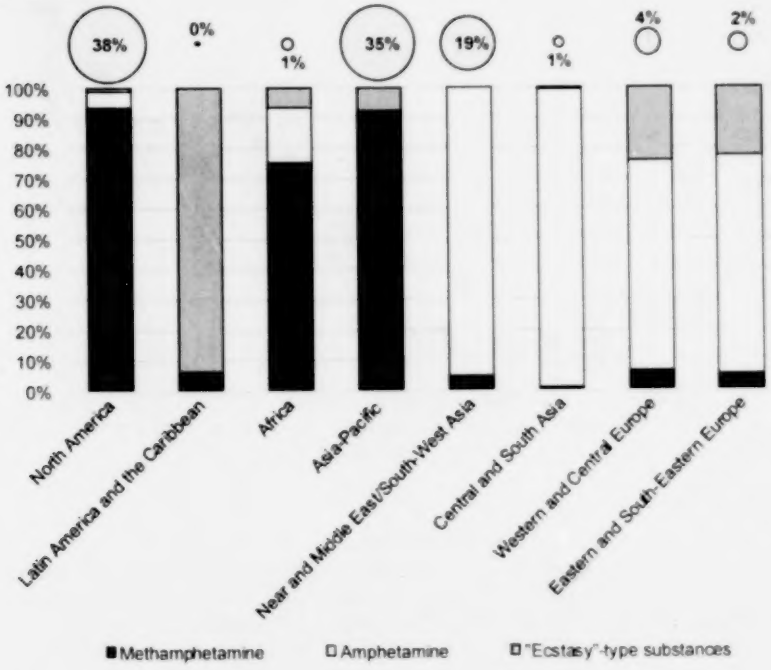
59. As presented in figure XII, the two regions with the largest total seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2016 are North America and the Asia-Pacific region, which are the two main markets for methamphetamine worldwide. The large seizures are recorded in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, where most of the global amphetamine trafficking occurs (see figure V). Europe also has significant amounts of amphetamine-type stimulant seizures, accounting for a large portion of the global "ecstasy" market (see figure XII), with no major differences in terms of distribution between Western and Central Europe and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

[10] European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016

Figure XII

Proportion of amphetamine-type stimulant seizures, by region and drug type (2016)[a]

(Percentage)



[a] Data are preliminary.

Methamphetamine

60. The Asia-Pacific region and North America account for most global methamphetamine seizures, and the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has traditionally been concentrated close to those two consumer markets. However, it has recently spread to other countries and regions, with reports of methamphetamine being smuggled from other regions, such as Africa, Europe and South-West Asia during the period 2012–2015.[31] Global methamphetamine seizures reached record levels in both 2015 and 2016.

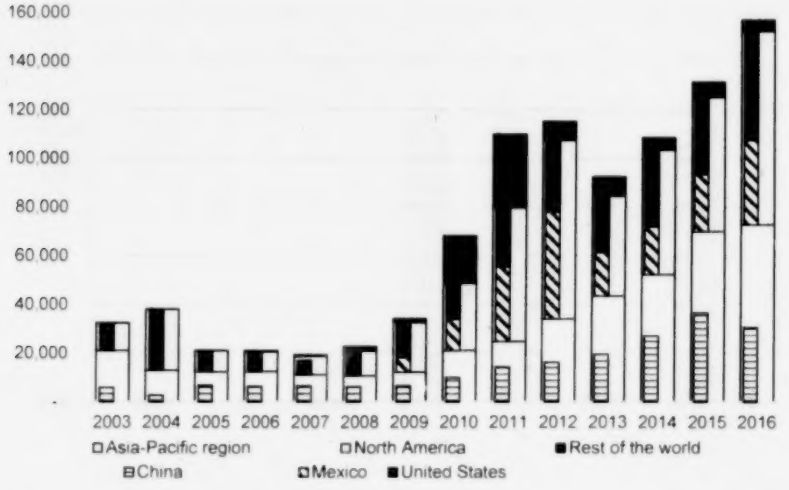
61. In North America, methamphetamine seizures increased sharply, from 55 tons in 2015 to 79 tons in 2016. Annual methamphetamine seizures in the United States reached their highest level on record for the third year in a row in 2016, at 44 tons, a 39 per cent increase with respect to 2015. National authorities reported that domestic manufacture has been decreasing in the United States since 2004, with most of the methamphetamine trafficked within the country being manufactured in Mexico and smuggled across the south-western border.[32] In Mexico, methamphetamine seizures also increased sharply, from 24 tons in 2015 to 35 tons in 2016. Methamphetamine is produced in the country using precursors imported mainly from China, Japan and Singapore.[33]

[31] UNODC, *Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment: Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (Vienna, 2017).

[32] United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, *2017 National Drug Threat Assessment*.

[33] UNODC, annual report questionnaire replies submitted by Mexico for 2016.

Figure XIII
Global seizures of methamphetamine, by region (2003–2016)[a]
(Kilograms)



[a] Data for 2016 are preliminary

62. In the Asia-Pacific region, methamphetamine seizures have been increasing every year since 2008, with the total amount seized in the region increasing almost sevenfold over the period 2008–2016. In East and South-East Asia, methamphetamine is trafficked in tablets and in crystalline form; tablets are manufactured and trafficked mostly within the Mekong subregion, and crystal methamphetamine trafficking is spread throughout the region.[34] The high prices of crystalline methamphetamine in some countries, such as Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, may be a key driver of the increased manufacture observed in China and South-East Asia in recent years.[35]

63. Methamphetamine seizures in China have increased every year between 2008 and 2015, from 6 tons to over 36 tons. In 2016, methamphetamine seizures in the country decreased to almost 31 tons. As seen in figure XIV, the sharp increase in methamphetamine seizures in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years is not only a consequence of the increase in China but also due to an increase in many other countries of the region. In Australia, methamphetamine seizures remained high at 4.3 tons in 2016, while Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand all reported record levels for that year.

64. While most of the methamphetamine trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region is trafficking within the region, there is evidence of interregional trafficking. Since 2009, Japanese authorities have reported an increasing trend of smuggling that drug into the country from Mexico,[36] while Nigeria was reported as a source of seized methamphetamine by Malaysia and Hong Kong, China, and the United States were cited as being a source by Japan and New Zealand.[37]

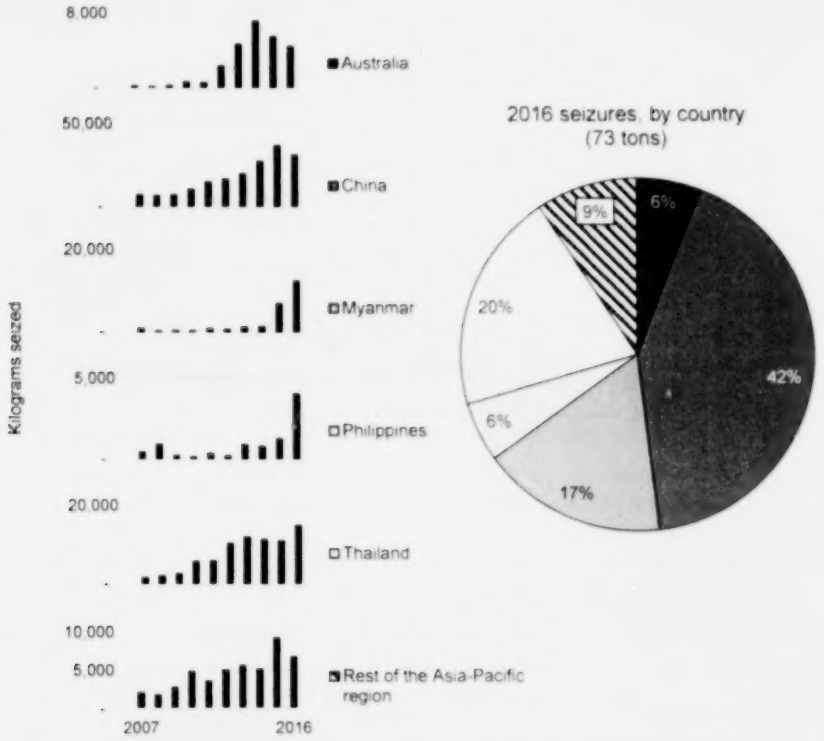
[34] UNODC, global SMART programme, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (2015).

[35] UNODC, global SMART programme, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (2017).

[36] Country report submitted by Japan to the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

[37] UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire replies submitted by Hong Kong, China, Japan, New Zealand, and Malaysia for 2016.

Figure XIV
Geographical distribution of methamphetamine seizures in the Asia-Pacific region in 2016, and annual seizures in selected countries (2007–2016)
(Kilograms)



65. Outside the two main markets, significant methamphetamine seizures are often reported by Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Nigeria. The Islamic Republic of Iran has seized over 1 ton of methamphetamine every year since 2010 (1.8 tons in 2016) and detected 181 clandestine laboratories in 2016 alone, and Nigeria seized an annual average of 290 kg of methamphetamine over the period 2013–2015, and a record 1.3 tons in 2016.[18] Guatemala recorded significant methamphetamine seizures in recent years, with 1.8 tons in the period 2014–2015, while South Africa reported seizing a total of 900 kg during the period 2015–2016.

Amphetamine

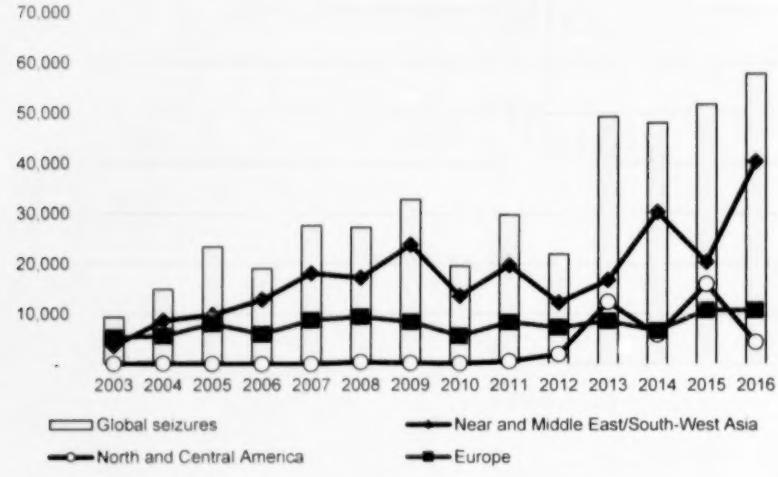
66. Since 2004, global amphetamine seizures have been concentrated mostly in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia (see figure XV). Seizures in several countries in the Near and Middle East have increased notably over the past decade. Amphetamine seizures in Saudi Arabia have grown from less than 100 kg per year in years prior to 2003 to a record 17 tons in 2014, and more than 15 tons in 2016. In Jordan, seizures increased from 500 kg in 2003 to a record 13.5 tons in 2016, while annual seizures in Lebanon have averaged 3.5 tons over the period 2013–2015.[19] Other countries in the region have also reported record seizures in recent years, with the Syrian Arab Republic seizing 4.2 tons in 2015 and the United Arab Emirates seizing 6.3 tons in 2016. In South-West Asia, amphetamine seizures have increased

[18] Country report submitted by Nigeria to the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

[19] No information for 2016 was available at the time of writing.

in recent years as well, with Pakistan reporting record seizures of 2.9 tons in 2015 and 3.9 tons in 2016.

Figure XV
Global seizures of amphetamine, by region (2003–2016)
(Kilograms)



67. In Western and Central Europe, amphetamine seizures have remained relatively stable since 2005, with a total of 6.8 tons in 2016, a 5 per cent increase from 2015. While Germany has consistently reported between 1,000 and 1,500 kg every year since 2008, amphetamine seizures in the United Kingdom have decreased from an annual average of 1.8 tons during the period 2003–2013 to under 500 kg in 2015 and 2016. Some of the main amphetamine manufacturing countries in the region are Belgium, the Netherlands and Poland.[40] While the Netherlands reported 1.5 tons in 2015, amphetamine seizures in Poland have increased in recent years from an average of 370 kg per year in the period 2003–2011 to a record 945 kg in 2016. In recent years, there has been an increased amount of amphetamine trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, with Turkey reporting seizures of 3.8 tons in 2015 and 3.4 tons in 2016, the largest amounts reported by a country in the geographical region of Europe for those years.

68. In recent years, there has been an increased presence of amphetamine in the Americas, in particular in North and Central America (see figure XV). The United States has reported an average of 5.9 tons of amphetamine seized annually since 2013, with 4.3 tons being seized in 2016. In Guatemala, seizures reached over 1.5 tons in 2014 and 12.7 tons in 2015, mostly due to an unprecedented multi-ton seizure that year. Mexico also reported seizing a record 300 kg of amphetamine in 2015.

69. There has also been a recent increase in amphetamine seizures in Africa. While seizures in the continent were virtually insignificant until 2012, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Egypt reported multi-ton annual amphetamine seizures in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively.

"Ecstasy"-type substances

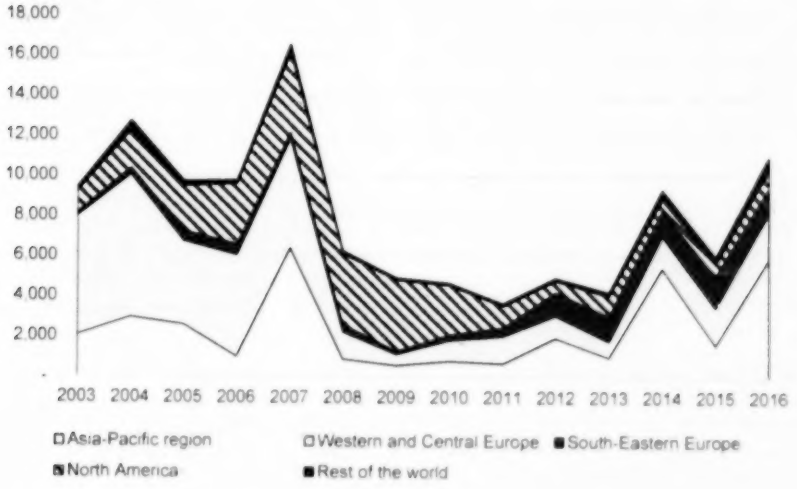
70. In 2016, global seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances reached the highest level since 2007, mainly due to a sharp increase in the Asia-Pacific region, but also due to moderate increases in Western and Central Europe, and North America. As seen in figure XVI, seizures of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) have followed a decreasing trend over the past 15 years, mostly due to declines in the North

[40] Europol, *SOCTA 2017: European Union Serious Organized Crime Threat Assessment*.

American and Western and Central European markets. It has been thought in recent years that the Asia-Pacific region "might be becoming an emerging driver of the global market for 'ecstasy'".[41] Other regions, in particular Turkey in South-Eastern Europe, have also seen sharp increases in seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances in recent years.

71. Seizures of MDMA in Australia reached a record level at 4.8 tons in 2016, up from 4.4 tons in 2014 and 670 kg in 2015. Seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances in Western and Central Europe have increased in recent years, from 817 kg in 2013 to 2.3 tons in 2016, the largest amounts on record since 2007. Seizures in North America increased by more than 50 per cent in 2016 compared with the previous year, due to increased seizures in both Mexico and the United States. After reaching a record 1.5 tons in 2015, "ecstasy"-type substances seizures in Turkey remained high at 1.2 tons in 2016. That country has reported close to 1 ton seized each year between 2012 and 2016, up from an average of 285 kg during the previous nine years.

Figure XVI
Global seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances, by region (2003–2016)[a]



[a] Data for 2016 are preliminary.

IV. Conclusions: analysis of the period 2007–2016

Illicit crop cultivation trends

72. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide. Between 2007 and 2013, thanks to the efforts of the corresponding national governments and law enforcement agencies, coca cultivation in each of those three countries decreased sharply. In 2007, global cultivation of coca bush stood at over 181,000 ha, and in 2013 there were less than 121,000 ha under cultivation. However, coca bush cultivation in Colombia has increased sharply, from 48,000 ha in 2013 to 146,000 ha in 2016. As a result, global coca cultivation has increased notably over the past three years, with a total of 213,000 ha of cultivation in 2016.

[41] UNODC, global SMART programme, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances*.

73. Afghanistan and South-East Asia (Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic) account for a total of over 85 per cent of the global cultivation of opium poppy, while Mexico accounts for another 9 per cent.[42] Cultivation of opium poppy in both Afghanistan and South-East Asia has increased sharply over the period 2009–2014, from about 186,000 ha to almost 311,000 ha. While in 2015, cultivation in Afghanistan decreased by 18 per cent and global cultivation declined by 10 per cent, preliminary data indicate that opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased sharply in 2017, reaching record levels, at 328,000 ha.

Illicit drug trafficking trends

74. Between 2010 and 2012, global cannabis herb seizures have decreased from about 6,500 tons to 5,500 tons, after remaining relatively stable during the previous years. Although cannabis herb seizures occur in almost every corner of the globe, the Americas have accounted for more than 60 per cent of global seizures every year since the early 1990s. The above-mentioned decrease in global cannabis seizures is partly a reflection of the decline in seizures in North America. Between 2012 and 2015, global cannabis herb seizures remained stable at around 5,500 tons, owing to increased seizures in Latin America and the Caribbean (especially in South America) and occasionally in Africa, which offset the continued decrease in North America. In 2016, preliminary data indicate that global cannabis herb seizures decreased once again.

75. During the period under analysis, cannabis resin seizures have followed an increasing trend at the global level, from a total of 1,000 tons in 2010 to over 1,650 tons in 2016. While a decreasing trend has been observed in Western and Central Europe, which is the main consumer market, cannabis resin seizures in the two main source regions, North Africa and South-West Asia, have increased sharply over the period under analysis. As a consequence, while in 2007 more than 60 per cent of global seizures were concentrated in Western and Central Europe, in recent years seizures have been more evenly distributed among the three above-mentioned regions, with close to one third of global cannabis resin seizures occurring in each of them.

76. While global illicit morphine and opium seizures are highly concentrated in the Golden Crescent, heroin is consumed and trafficked around the globe, and hence, seizures occur in a wider range of countries. At the global level, heroin seizures have remained relatively stable over the period 2008–2013, varying between 72 tons and 78 tons. In recent years, seizures have increased slightly, climbing to more than 83 tons in 2016. There are three main markets for this drug: North America, Europe and South-East Asia. Hence, heroin seizures are concentrated around these three regions and in the largest producing country: Afghanistan. The six countries with the largest heroin seizures are Afghanistan, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Turkey and the United States, and together they accounted for over 70 per cent of global seizures in the period 2009–2016.[43]

77. At the global level, cocaine seizures are heavily concentrated in Latin America and the Caribbean, the main source and transit regions, and North America and Western and Central Europe, the main consumer markets, with these regions accounting for over 98 per cent of global seizures. After decreasing in 2010, global cocaine seizuresf remained stable, at between 635 tons and 685 tons, in the period 2010–2014. As a consequence of the increase in coca bush cultivation, cocaine seizures increased notably in 2015 and 2016, reaching over 1,000 tons, with sharp increases in South America, North America and Western and Central Europe.

78. Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants have experienced a sharp increase over the last decade, from a total of under 60 tons in 2008, to over 225 tons

[42] According to statistics for 2015 figures. UNODC and Government of Mexico, *Monitoreo de cultivos de amapola 2014–2015* (June 2016).

[43] With the exception of 2014, when these six countries accounted for 63 per cent of global seizures.

in 2016. This increase was mainly driven by the rise in methamphetamine seizures, which increased fivefold over this period, from 22 tons in 2008 to almost 160 tons in 2016. Methamphetamine seizures are heavily concentrated in the two main markets: North America and the Asia-Pacific region. These two regions have accounted for over 90 per cent of global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants since 2012 and have shown a sharp increasing trend over the period under analysis.

79. Global seizures of amphetamine have remained relatively stable between 2007 and 2012, and have increased sharply since 2013. While global seizures remained below the 33-ton mark during the period 2010–2012, they have since consistently surpassed the 40-ton mark and reached a record 57 tons in 2016. Western and Central Europe and Central and North America account for significant amounts of amphetamine seized, while most of global seizures occur in the Near and Middle East. Between 2014 and 2016, several countries in that region reported the seizure of record amounts of amphetamine.

80. After decreasing sharply in 2008, seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances have remained relatively stable between 2008 and 2013, fluctuating around the 4.3-ton mark. These seizures tend to be concentrated in Western and Central Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. Multi-ton seizures in Australia in 2014 and 2016 are responsible for two peaks, of 9.3 tons and 11 tons respectively, in the total global seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances for those two years.